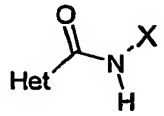
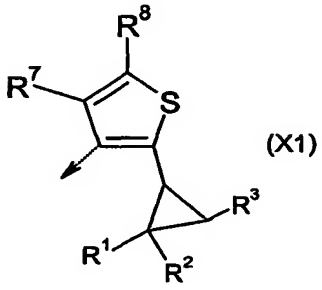
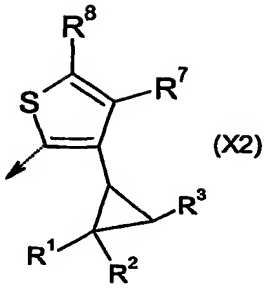
CLAIMS

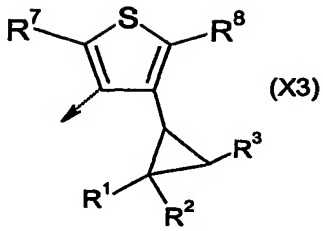
1. A compound of formula (I):


(I)

where X is (X1), (X2) or (X3);


(X1)


(X2)


(X3)

Het is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one to three heteroatoms, each independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, provided that the ring is not 1,2,3-triazole, the ring being substituted by groups R^4, R^5 and R^6; R^1 and R^2 are each, independently, hydrogen, halo or methyl; R^3 is optionally substituted C_{2-12} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl; R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each, independently, selected from hydrogen, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy(C_{1-4})alkylene and C_{1-4} haloalkoxy(C_{1-4})alkylene, provided that at least one of R^4, R^5 and R^6 is not hydrogen; and R^7 and R^8 are each, independently, hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} haloalkyl.

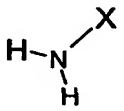
2. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 where Het is pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, thienyl, furyl, isothiazolyl or isoxazolyl.

3. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 or 2 where R^1 and R^2 are, independently, hydrogen or fluoro.

4. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 where R^3 is C_{2-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, phenyl, thienyl or furyl.

5. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 where R^4, R^5 and R^6 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl and C_{1-4} alkoxy(C_{1-4})alkylene, provided that at least one of R^4, R^5 and R^6 is not hydrogen.

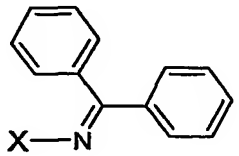
6. A compound formula (II):



(II)

where X and R^3 are as defined in claim 1; and R^1, R^2, R^7 and R^8 are each hydrogen.

7. A process for preparing a compound of formula (II) as claimed in claim 6 from a compound of formula (V):



(V)

where X, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^7 and R^8 are as defined in claim 6, comprising either a transamination reaction of a compound of formula (V) with hydroxylamine hydrochloride in the presence of a base or a hydrolysis reaction of a compound of formula (V) with an acid.

8. A process for preparing a compound of formula (V) as defined in claim 7 from a compound of formula (IV):

X-Br (IV)

where X, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^7 and R^8 are as defined in claim 6, comprising tris-dibenzylidenacetondipalladium-catalysed reaction of a compound of formula (IV) with benzophenonimine in the presence of a strong base and a ligand in a solvent at a temperature between 30°C and reflux temperature.

9. A composition for controlling microorganisms and preventing attack and infestation of plants therewith, wherein the active ingredient is a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 together with a suitable carrier.

10. A method of controlling or preventing infestation of cultivated plants by phytopathogenic microorganisms by application of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 to plants, to parts thereof or the locus thereof.